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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5386**  
Masahiro SAMEI et al. : **Docket No. 2002\_0028A**  
Serial No. 10/046,822 : **Group Art Unit 2861**  
Filed January 17, 2002 : **THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED**  
: **TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE**  
**PRINTER APPARATUS** : **FEEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT**  
: **ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of ☒ the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

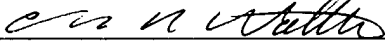
a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

- c. ☒ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at pages 1 and 3,
- d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Masahiro SAMEI et al.

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March 15, 2002

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: March 15, 2002

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2002\_0028ASERIAL NO.  
10/046,822APPLICANT  
Masahiro SAMEI et al.FILING DATE  
January 17, 2002GROUP  
2861

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,075,228	06/2000	Goto et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AE	57-161767	10/1982	JP			Abst.	
	AF	2-176432	07/1990	JP			Abst.	
	AG	5-107980	04/1993	JP			Abst.	
	AH	5-303299	11/1993	JP			Abst.	
	AI	6-202524	07/1994	JP			Abst.	
	AJ	7-334029	12/1995	JP			Abst.	
	AK	9-62140	03/1997	JP			Abst.	
	AL	10-213995	08/1998	JP			Abst.	
	AM	11-24492	01/1999	JP			Abst.	
	AN	11-102769	04/1999	JP			Abst.	
	AO	11-109774	04/1999	JP			Abst.	
	AP	11-174884	07/1999	JP			Abst.	

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AQ	
	AR	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED